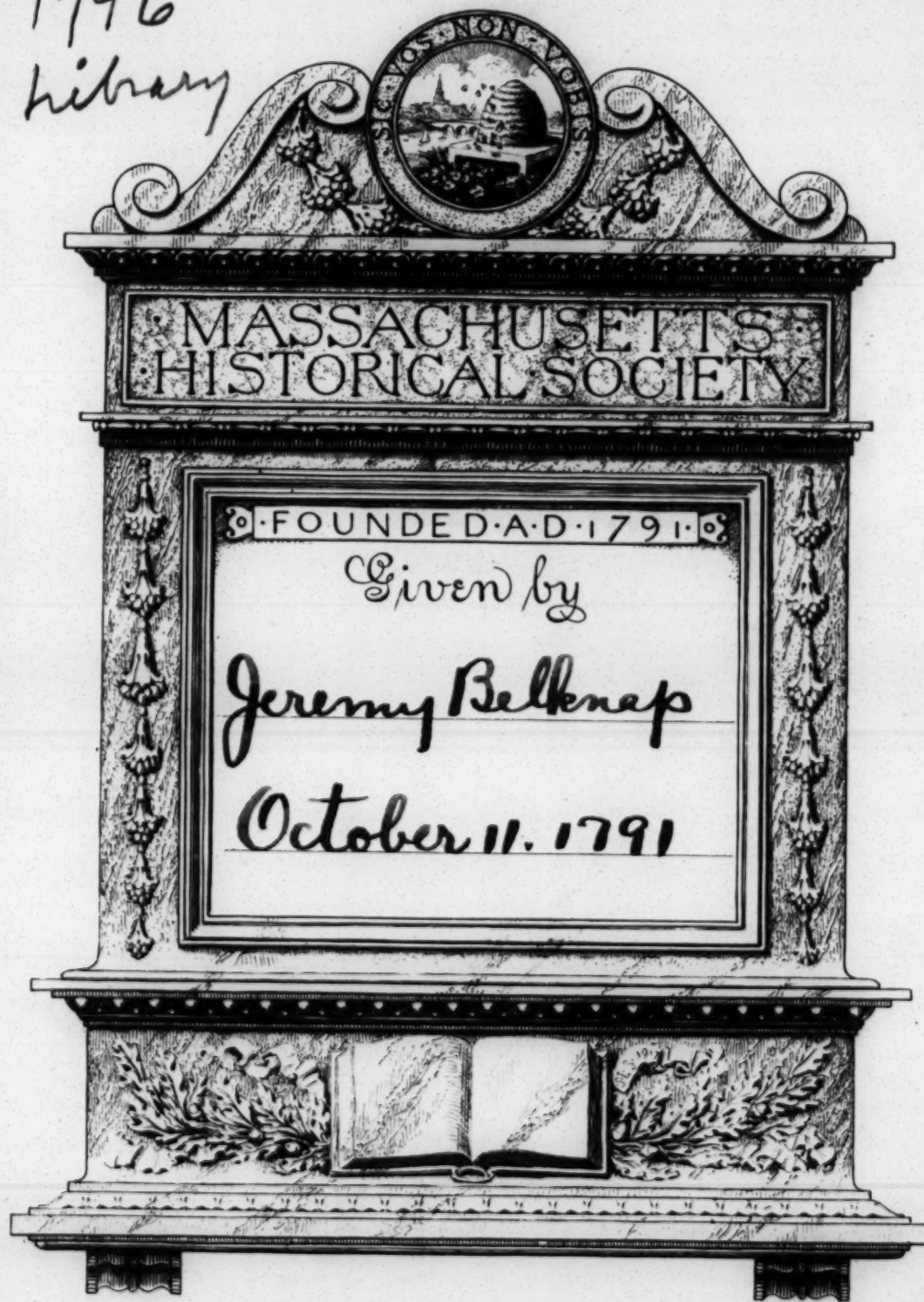
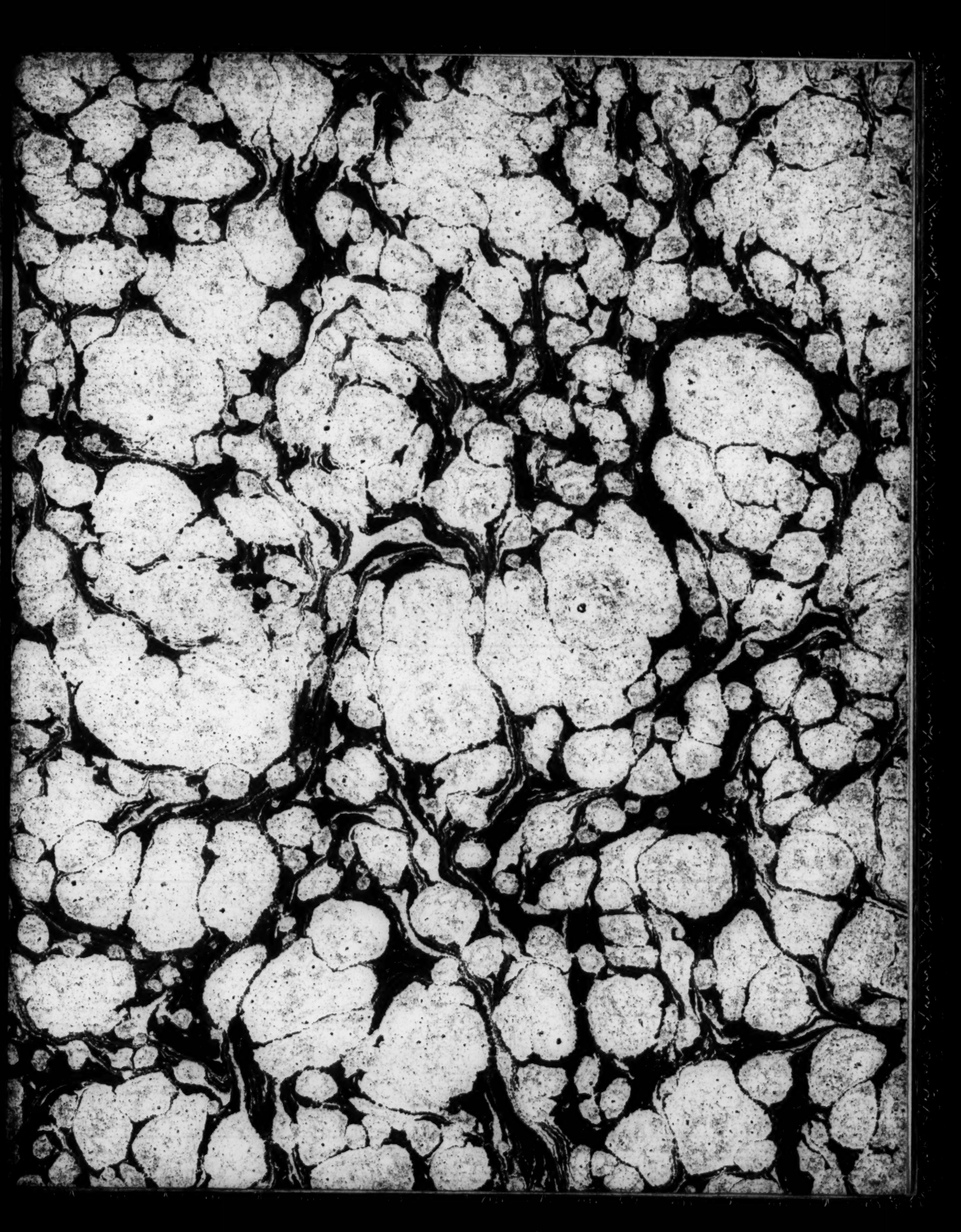


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Propositions

Made by the Sachems of the three Maquas Castles, to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commanalty of the City of Albany, and Military Officers of the said City, and County in the City-Hall, February 25th. 1689.

Peiter Schuyler Mayor, with ten more Gentlemen, then present.

Interpreted by Arnout & Mille.

The Names of the Sachims, Sinnonguiness Speaker, Rode, Sagoddiockquifax, Oguedagoa, Tosoquatho, Odagurasse, Anharenda, Jagogthera.

Brethren,

WEE are Sorry and extreemly Grier'd for the Murther lately committed by the French upon our Brethren of Shenectady, we esteem this Evil, as if done to our selves, being all in one Covenant-Chain; But what they have done is by way of stealth, by way of Robbery unawares; our Brethren of New-England will be sorry to hear of this sad Disaster, but we must not be discouraged. [They give a Belt of Wampom, according to their custome, to wipe off the Tears.

2. Brethren, We lament and condole the Death of so many of our Brethren so basely Murther'd at Shenectady; we cannot account it a great Victory, for it is done by way of Deceit. He (meaning the Governour of Canada) comes to our Coun-

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try.

try by his Messengers at *Onnondage*, and speaks of Peace, with the whole *House* quite hither: but War is in his heart, as you find by woful experience, but what shall we say? it is the same as he did at *Cadarachqui*, and the *Sinnakes* Countrey. This is the *third time* that he has done so; he has broke open the Jewel of our House on both ends, the one end at *Sinnondowanne*, and the other here, But we hope to be Revenged. There is one hundred of our young men out still, who will pursue them to their Doors at *Cannida*; nay, the *French* shall not be able to cut a stick of Wood, we will lay so close Seige to them; We do now gather the Dead together in order to their Interment. A manner of speaking amongst. [They do give a Belt of *Wampom*

3. We are come here from our Castles with Tears in our Eyes to Bemoan the Murther committed by the perfidious *French* at *Shennechtady*, our young *Indians* are gone out in Pursuit of them, and while we are now busie in burying the Dead that were Murthered there, we may have bad news that our people that are gone out, may be kill'd also; the same that is befallen you, may befall us: We do therefore come and bury our Brethren at *Shennechtady*. [They give a Belt of *Wampom*, according to their custome.

4 Great is the Mischief that is befallen us, it is come from the *Heavens* upon us, we are taught by our Fore-fathers, when any sad Accident or Disaster doth befall any of the Covenant, to go with all convenient speed to Bemoan their Death; [They give a Belt of *Wampom*, which they call a Belt of *Vigilance*, that is, not to have too much thoughts on what is done that cannot be Remedied, but to be watchful for the future; and they give *Eye-water* to make the Brethren *sharp-sighted*.

5 We come to the house where we usually do Renew the *Covenant*, which House we find defiled with Blood, this is known to

to all the five Nations, and we are now come to wipe off the Blood and keep the House clean, and therefore pray that *Corlaer* and all they that are in Office here in *Albany*, naming the Mayor whom they call *Peiter*, Mr. *Vessels*, and Mr. *Livingstone* may use all means and Direct all Affairs to be Revenged of the Enemy that hath done us this Evil [They give a Belt of *Wampom*.

6 Brethren : Do not be Discouraged, this is but a beginning of the *War*, we are strong enough, the whole house have their Eyes fixed upon you, and they only stay your motion, and will be ready to do whatever shall be Resolved upon by our Brethren, our Covenant is a firm Covenant it is a *Silver Chain* and cannot be broke, it must not be broke; we are Resolute and will Continue the *War*, we will not leave off, if there were but Thirty Men of us left, we will proceed, therefore pray take good heart, do not pack up and go away, if the Enemy should hear that, it would much encourage them, we are of the Race of the *Bear*, and a *Bear* doth not yield as long as there is a drop of Blood in its body we must all be so; [They give a Belt of *Wampom*.

7. Brethren, Be Content, *Look up to the Heavens*; from thence the Judgment is come now upon us, Be not Discouraged, the same hand that hath Chastized us can heal us; The Sun which now hath been Cloudy, and sent us this Disaster, will shine again, and with its pleasant Beams comfort us, *Be Encouraged*; [with many Repetitions. And they give a *Bear-skin*.

8 We were Engaged in a Bloody War with the *French*, about three years ago, and were Encouraged to Proceed, and no sooner were we well Entred, and got several Prisoners, but a Cessation came, and *Corlaer* hindred us to proceed, and Demanded the Prisoners from us; we were Obedient and did deliver them

them, and laid down the Hatchet, which if we might have gone forward, then the French would not have been in that Capacity to do so much mischief as they do; But now we must dye; *such Obstructions will Ruine us*; if we might have had our wills, we would have prevented their Planting, Sowing and Reaping, and brought them low and mean; Nevertheless let us be stedfast, and not take such measures again, let us go on briskly with the War. [They give a ~~Bear~~^{Beaver} skin,

9 We Recommend the Brethren to keep good *Watch*, and if any Enemies come, take care that Messengers be more speedily sent to us then lately was done, we would not advise the Brethren quite to Desert *Sennechtady*, but to make a Fort there, the Enemy would be too glorious to see it quite Desolate, and the Town here is not well Fortified, the Stockadoes are so short, the Indians can jump over them like a Dog. [They give a ~~Beaver~~^{Beaver} skin.

10 This mischief is done at *Sennechtady*, and it cannot be helped, but as soon as any Enemy comes, let nothing hinder your speedy sending to us the News by Posts, and Fyring great Guns, that all may be Alarm'd; and our Advise is that you get all the River Indians who are under your Subjection to come and live near unto you, to be ready on all occasions, and send word to *New-England* of all what's done here; undoubtedly they will awake and lend us their helping hand; let us not be Discouraged, *The French are not so many as People talk off*; if we but mind our business, They can be subdued, with the assistance of our Neighbours of *New-England*, whose interest it is to drive on this War as much as ours, that it may be speedily ended.

We desire that the Brethren may Recommend the Smiths not to be too dear in Repairing our Arms, since Money is so scarce

scarce, and we only go to *Warring* and not to *Hunting*; we shall take care to warn the *Sinnakes* and the Nations living above us to be in Readiness; for we being one they hearken to us, and tell them of *New-England* that we shall take care that the upper Nations be Ready for our Security and Assistance, and Let them be Ready also with Ships and great Guns by Water, and we will Plague him by Land: We are Resolved not to go out a Hunting, but to mind the War, for the sooner the *French* be fallen upon the better, before they get Men and Provisions from *France*, as their usual Custome is. [They give a *Bear-Skin*.

A N S W E R upon the *Maquas Sachims*
Propositions; by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of
the City of Albany, and Military Officers of the said City
and County: At the City-Hall, Febr. 26th. 1689

Interpreted by Arnout, &c.

Brethren,

YOur coming here according to the Custome of your Ancestors, to Condole the death of your *Brethren* Murdered at *Shennechtady* is very acceptable, whereby your Inclination towards us is Demonstrated; we must acknowledg that they did not keep so good Watch as they ought, considering what a false and deceitful Enemy they had to deal withal, but that which made them so secure, was, the great Trust which they Reposed in the forty *Maquas* who came here, and Tendered their Service to go and be the Out-watch, and to spy the Enemy: To which end Powder and Lead

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was

was given them as they desired; we were about Hiring Christians to send thither, but were unhappily diverted by the said Company of *Maquass*, who promised to have four Posts ready, two to go to their own Country, and two to come hither if any Enemy should appear. For the Brethren did assure us, that no *French* could come here without being Discovered; and then would all fall into our hands: We are likewise mindful, how that the five Nations last Fall, when the Gentlemen of *New-England* were here did Declare how they would Encompass the *French* of *Canada*, that they could not break out this Winter, without being Discovered and Fallen upon: We did likewise propose by our Messengers, *Arnout*, and *Robert Sanders* at the General Meeting of *Onondage* to have Three or Four Hundred Men sent hither to be ready on all occasions, but see none.

Now Brethren, this Evil is done and cannot be called back again, and the only means to prevent the like for the future, is to keep good Watch, and to have good courage to oppose and resist the Enemy. We are no wayes Discomfited for this misfortune. It is the fortune of War, we do not fear to be even with the *French* in a short time; we have already sent Letters to all our Neighbours of *New-England*, *Virginia* and *Mary-Land*, the Subjects of the great King of *England*, and acquainted them of the Evil done here by the *French*, and how requisite it is, that Ships be fitted out with all convenient speed, to go to *Quebeck*, and to press the business the more, we do now send persons to *New-York* and *New-England*, a purpose to lay open the Case before them. And to perswade them to Rig out Vessels not only to hinder Succour coming from *France*, but to take *Quebeck* it self: as also to send more Men hither, that we may then send Men along with you to annoy the Enemy in their Country. In the mean time we recommend the Brethren to send for

two hundred Men from the upper Nations, to joyn with you, to keep the *French* in continual Alarm, and do them what mischief imaginable ; and *Onnondages* and *Sinnekes* must go down the River of *Cadarachqui*, and meet one another about *Mont Royal*, and annoy the Enemy there : we shall in the mean while Fortifie the Town, and put our selves in a good posture of Defence, that we may not be Surprized, as they of *Shennechtady* were ; and make all Preparations to oppose the Enemy.

The Brethren see that we are in War with *France*, now there is no time to speak of Peace. The *French* as you well observe have fallen on both ends of the Chain, but not broke it. Let us keep the Covenant so much the faster, which never has had the least crack since the very first the *Christians* came here : They strove to lull us as all asleep, by their Messengers at *Onnondage*, speaking of Peace, and then they were upon the way, hither to commit this Murther.

¶ The Brethren need not fear for a *Cessation* to hinder us to pursue the Enemy, for as we told you before, the KING that ordered *that*, was a *Papist*, and a great Friend of the *French* ; But our present Great KING will pursue the War to the outmost : Therefore we must all prepare for War. It will therefore be very requisite that the Brethren for their better Security come and Plant this Summer at *Shinnechtady* upon the Land that cannot be cultivated this year, that we may be near to one another upon any occasion. Concerning the Proposition of the *Shackkook* Indians, 'tis concluded on some dayes ago, to propose to the *Shackkook* Indians the Planting on *Marte Gerritse* Island hard by the Town, and the River Indians that live below shall also come together to be ready on all occasions.

We must Insist and Recommend you to perswade them of *Oneyde* to send the Priest hither, for you have seen how dangerous

it

it is to have such persons among you, who informs the Enemy of all your doings, and discovers all our Designs, we shall secure him that he Run not away, and when the Owner demands him, and these Troubles are over, shall be Delivered, for he can do more harm in *Oneyde* than an hundred men.

We think it Convenient that one or two of the *Sachims* stay here, and that a *Sachim* of each Nation be here to assist in the management of the Affairs of the War. There was given them six Belts of *Wampum*, some *Duffils*, Tobacco, and some Bags with Provision.

After the Proposition was answered, they gave a Shout according to their Custome, which signified *Amen*, that they would continue the War to the utmost.

After the said Answer was made, The *Maquas Sachems* said after they had Repeated our Answer. We are glad to see that you are not Discouraged, A mistake can be made by the best and wisest of men, and we must see now to Pursue the War with all Vigour, we have an hundred men out in Pursuit of the Enemy still, who are good Skouts; in the mean time, we expect all the *Sachims* of the Upper Nations to Consult with us, who will come to Condole the Death of our Brethren Murthered at *Shennechtady*: You need not fear our being Ready, we are soon fitted out, our Ax is in our hand. But take care for your selves to be in Readiness. The Ships that must do the principal work—are long a Fitting out and Rigging; we do not Design to go out with a small Troop as Skouts, but as soon as the Nation is come together; we will go with a whole Army to Ruine the Country. The Builiness must be soon brought to a Period; therefore send in all haste to *New-England*, for we nor you cannot live long in this Condition; we must order it so, that the *French* be in a continual Fear and Alarm, and that is the way to be in Peace here.

Concerning the *Shakkeok* Indians in our Opinion they lye well where they are, as a good Watch, They are our Children, we will take care that they do their Duty, but as for the *Indians* that live below the Town, Them we mean must be sent for up, and got to Plant and live together, to be always in Readiness upon occasion.

This is a true Copy Examined

By Robert Livingston

EXAMINATION of three French Pri-

soners taken by the Maquase, and brought to Sennechtady, who were Examined by Pieter Schuyler, Mayor of the City of Albany; Dom. Goduridus Delius, and some other Gentlemen, that went from Albany a purpose, and Report as follows : March 3d. 1689.

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1. **T**hat about the middle of *January*, they went from *Mont-Royal*, being about Three Hundred Men, *French* and *Indians*, to wit an hundred and sixty *French*, among which onely nineteen Souldiers taken out of divers Companies, the Rest all Bosc-lopers, them that frequent the Woods, and Inhabitants, and an hundred and forty Praying *Indians* and others, with positive Orders to Murder and Destroy all People they met withal at *Skennechtady*, except such as begg'd for quarters, as also to burn the Place, and take with them those that they could carry along: after said Company had Marched some days from *Canada*, some *French* and *Indians* that were sick and Timorous, Returned; so that the Party were two hundred and fifty that did the the Exploit at *Shennechtady*, by the *Indians* called *Ochques*.

2 After Enquiry of the Particulars of the Murder, they Confessed, that four or five *French* had Murdered the Minister of the said Village called *Pieter Toffemaker*, first shooting him thorow the Leggs, and then hew'd him with their Swords most barbarously, and being asked if they had Express Orders to deal so Cruelly, said, That their Order was to do what was done.

3 Being enquired concerning the Prisoners, they carried along with them, said, they were well Treated by the way, and within four or five days Journey of *Canada*, some of our Prisoners

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went

went with the Indians, and the Remainder with the *French*, but that we need not doubt of their good Entertainment at *Canada*, since they will be Delivered to the Jesuits to be instructed in their Religion.

4 That they had eat about twenty or thirty of the Horses they carried along with them, and intended to carry seven with them to *Canada*.

5 That nevertheless Provisions begun to grow scarce in their Army, and therefore two men were Dispatched upon Scates, who go Twenty five Leagues in a day to Cause Provisions be sent them from *Mont Royal*.

6 That the ten Prisoners, whereof these now Examined were three, were taken by our Indians about two of the Clock in the Afternoon, being at the same fire that the body of the Army went from in the Morning, attending some sick persons who could not March so fast as the Rest.

7. That the manner of keeping their Scouts out a nights both in Coming and going was thirty men who Marched constantly Round the Army all night, about a Musket shot off, but near *Shennechtady*, the number of the said Scouts was Doubled.

8 That by the Tract they Trapann'd some *Maquase Squaws* near *Shennechtady*, whom they Compelled to give an account of the Condition of the Place, and kept said Indian Women till they had Committed the Massacre; when they were within some Miles of *Shennechtady*, the Officers had a Consultation about falling upon *Albany*; one *Monsieur de Tallie* who had been formerly here did Press hard to Attaque it, but because their Orders was Expresly for *Shennechtady* the Design on *Albany* was put by.

9 That they had lost but one only *French* man at *Shennechtady*, and one fore wounded;

The said Prisoners being Examined about the Affairs of Canada do say,

1. That last Summer eight or nine Ships arrived at *Quebek*, whereof two were Men of War, who brought store of Ammunition and Provisions, with which Ships the Earl of *Frontinak* came for Governour, and *Monsieur Callier* Governour of *Mont Royal*, and the Indian Prisoners, but brought no Souldiers, and that the *Marquess de Devonville* late Governour went away with said Ships.

11. That they expect for certain that Two've Men of War will come this Summer with Two thousand Men, and two Years Provisions for *Canada*.

2 The Governour *Frontenak* upon his Voyage to *Canada* met with a
French

French Ship London with *Basket*, bound for the *North-west Passage*, carried the same along with him to *Canada*, and sent her *Loading* with great store of *Pork* and *Meal* come from *France* up to *Mont Royal*.

IV. That *Provisions* were not dearer at *Canada* now than formerly, a *Minot* of *Meal* being sold for a *French Crown*, adding that the *Damage* done by the *Indians* to their *Corn* in *Canada* was inconsiderable.

V. Governour *Frontenak* came to *Mont Royal* about the middle of *September*, which Place he hath Fortified with a *Ditch* ten foot deep, and twelve foot wide, round about the *Town*, except at the *River* side, where he hath built of *Stone* right out where the *Guard* is kept.

VI. That he had brought twelve small *Morter-peices* and some small *Canon* from *France* with him, which *Morter-peices* a man can easily carry, one of the said *Prisoners* having try'd it himself.

VII. The Governour *Frontenak* had caus'd to be made one hundred and twenty *Batoes*, that is flat bottom'd *Boats*; fit to carry eight or nine men, with *Provisions* and *Amunition*; as also one hundred *Bark Cannoes* at *Mont Royal*: the first were all made, and the latter the greatest part ready: and that it was much discoursed among the *French* of light *Ladders* to storm the *Fort* at *Albany*; all which together with the *Morter-pieces*, are making ready to come early in the *Spring* with fifteen hundred men to *Ataque Albany* by the *French* call'd *Fort D'Orange*.

VIII. That Governour *Frontenak* went in the *Moneth* of *November* to *Quebeck*, and was design'd to return to *Mont Royal* in the *Winter*, or at longest early in the *Spring*, to accomplish their *Design* upon *Albany*.

IX. That for that purpose *Monsieur d' Lute* was to go as soon as possible in the *Spring*, with fifty *Souldiers* to *Ottowawa*, to bring down the *Indians* to *Mont Royal*.

X. For the present, there are six *Companies* of *Souldiers* at *Mont Royal* of fifty men each, besides six or seven hundred *Burgers* and *Inhabitants*.

XI. The Kings Souldiers at *Canada* are computed to be fifteen or sixteen hundred men, and the said quantity of *Burgers* and *Inhabitants*, who are fit to carry Arms, besides their *Indians*.

XII. That said Souldiers are divided in the following Towns and Forts, Viz. *Quebek*, *Mont Royal*, *Chambly*, *Troy River*, *Sorel*, and twenty four Towns and Forts more.

XIII. They say that it was divulged at *Mont Royal*, that four hundred men were gone from *Quebek* under command of *Mons. Pirneusse*, and *Monsieur Courtimanche*, being all *Bosse-lopers* Inhabitants and *Indians*. (And no Souldiers) towards *Kinnebek* River, to take a certain *English Fort*, and that another Company, but not so numerous, under the Conduct of *Mons. Artel* were gone towards the Province of *New York* to do mischief there.

XIV. That the *French King* was pleased to give *Cadarachqui* to Governour *Frontenak* as a Gift, who was very much displeased at his Arrival, when he heard that it was Deserted, and that Governour *de Denonville* had given Orders to demolish it, The Garrison that lay there, being eighty men, were come home, eight were drown'd most of the Amunition being thrown in the Water; and among the rest four or five hundred small Arms, and have sunk the Canon about twenty Leagues from *Mont Royal*.

A true Copy, Examined by

Robert Livingston.

Memorandum, *The French Murther'd sixty Men, Women and Children at Shenectady, and carried twenty seven Men & Boys Prisoners to Canada.*

Boston Printed by S. Green. Sold by Benjamin Harris at the London Coffee-House. 1690.

Bound March 1938



